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that was causing so much trouble. The Limbless Lizard, as its name implies, is destitute of legs. It lives from a few inches to several feet under the earth (usually in sandy soil) and is found most frequently in the vicinity of the small bushes of *Lupinus arboreus*. It has never been observed above soil, and if the shrike has learned to dig the creatures out, then the shrike is possessed of much patience, and the lizards have a formidable enemy. I have often wondered what animals prey upon them. Nothing is known of their life history.

Mr. Wm. L. Atkinson, in THE CONDOR III, page 11, suggests that *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* does not return to eat impaled food after having once left it. I was of this opinion till last summer (Aug. 8, 1900,) when I noted something to the contrary in Sierra Valley, Cal., (near the town of Vinton, Plumas Co.) The bird in question was, however, *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. I copy essentially what I wrote at the time. "While setting some mammal traps this afternoon I was surprised to see a *Lanius* fly into a sage-brush bush only a few feet from me. It hunted about for a moment till it found an impaled grasshopper, which was first carefully tasted and then quickly bolted. The shrike then flew away, but returned at once and 'tasted' the little twig upon which the grasshopper had been impaled. This it did twice, then whet its its beak vigorously and flew to the top-most twig of the bush, fluffing itself into a round ball.

WALTER K. FISHER, Stanford Univ., Cal.



### On the Generic Name of the Californian Condor.

Readers of THE CONDOR may be interested to learn that as early as 1842 the Californian bird was separated generically from the South American species. In that year Lesson began an "Index Ornithologique" which appeared in numerous installments in a Parisian journal, *L'Echo du monde savant* and in the initial part of this "Index" he distinguished the Californian Condor under the name *Gymnogyps*, which name, owing to the rarity of the journal in which it appeared, has been buried for over half a century.

*Gymnogyps*, having many years priority over *Pseudogryphus*, will become the proper generic term for *Vultur californianus* Shaw, the reference being, *Gymnogyps* Lesson, *L'Echo du monde savant*, ser 2, VI, no. 44, Dec. 8, 1842, col. 1037. This "Echo" was issued about three times a week from 1834-1846, and contains many new generic and specific names of birds. I have been able to consult only part of the series (1838-1843) and would be agreeably surprised to see the remain-

der. Any one who may wish to surprise me should send a copy to the National Museum, Washington, D. C.

CHARLES W. RICHMOND.



We regret being compelled to crowd out the January and March minutes of the Northern Division which will appear in May. However Club members may be informed of some recent actions:—the Club's Bird Bill has been passed by the Senate and has every prospect of passing the Assembly; the Club expects to incorporate at once and members may gauge its prosperity by the fact that 21 new members were elected on March 2.



Mr. Joseph Grinnell, we hear, is to give a course in general ornithology the coming summer at the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory. This course conducted under the auspices of Stanford University, will aim to present the classification, characteristic anatomy, and habits of birds, particular attention being paid to those about Monterey Bay.

We note with much pleasure that *The Osprey* has commenced the Biographies of American Birds projected two years ago by Dr. Gill. Our joy is tinged with sadness, however, when we reflect that *The Osprey* can not complete, with justice to the subject, more than six biographies a year, and hence the series not before A. D. 2030!